

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250983

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE -- FOLLOW-UP ON FOOD
RESERVES AND GRAIN EXPORTERS GROUPS

REF: ROME 15589

1. REFTTEL PROVIDES USEFUL SUMMARY OF IMMEDIATE ISSUES CON-
FRONTING US WITH RESPECT TO FOLLOW-UP ON SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S NOVEMBER 5 PROPOSALS AT WFC CONCERNING AN
EXPORT PLANNING GROUP AND A RESERVES COORDINATING GROUP.
USDEL SHOULD CONTINUE TO REPORT PROMPTLY REACTIONS OF
OTHER DELEGATIONS TO THESE PROPOSALS.

2. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY WITH FIRST
MEETING OF RESERVES COORDINATING GROUP, BUT ARE EQUALLY
CONCERNED THAT THIS FIRST MEETING BE A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE.
FURTHERMORE, AS WE SEE TIMING HERE, IT IS STRONGLY PREFER-
ABLE THAT MEETING OF EXPORT PLANNING GROUP BE HELD IN
ADVANCE OF RESERVE COORDINATING GROUP. BECAUSE OF THE
NEED FOR COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE EXPORTERS MEETING
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TO HAVE RESULTS OF EXPORTERS' MEETING CONSIDERED BY THEIR

GOVERNMENTS, IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT BE ADVISABLE TO HOLD BACK-TO-BACK EXPORTERS MEETING AND RESERVES CO-ORDINATING GROUP.

3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, USG WOULD FAVOR FOLLOWING

SCENARIO: (A) MEETING OF EXPORTERS PLANNING GROUP IN WASHINGTON. (US, AS INITIATOR OF GROUP, WOULD HOST) IN SECOND WEEK IN DECEMBER; (B) MEETING OF RESERVES CO-ORDINATING GROUP IN JANUARY IN LONDON. RESERVES GROUP WOULD MEET INITIALLY UNDER AUSPICES OF IWC. FOR CONVENIENCE OF US AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS, MEETING MIGHT BE HELD EITHER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER SPECIAL IWC MEETING TO CONSIDER EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, WHICH IS NOW APPARENT WILL BE REQUIRED EARLY IN THE YEAR.

4. WASHINGTON MEETING OF EXPORTERS GROUP WOULD BE CALLED TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF WFC DECISIONS. MAJOR EXPORTERS HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING LEAD. SPECIFICALLY WE WOULD EXPECT TO COORDINATE VIEWS ON RESERVES SCHEME AND FOOD AID AS WELL AS PRODUCTION POLICIES FOR COMING YEAR AND STATE OF CROP IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES.

5. US TENTATIVELY HAS IN MIND FOLLOWING COMPOSITION FOR TWO GROUPS (A) EXPORTERS PLANNING GROUP -- US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA. EC IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY, SINCE IT IS A MAJOR EXPORTER AS WELL AS IMPORTER, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT NORMALLY MET IN PAST WITH FIRST FOUR COUNTRIES MENTIONED TO DISCUSS PRODUCER PROBLEMS. (B) RESERVES CO-ORDINATING GROUP -- SAME AS PREVIOUS, PLUS EC, JAPAN, BRAZIL, EGYPT, INDIA, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH, SOVIET UNION, PRC, THAILAND.

6. AS IS CLEAR FROM ABOVE, DEPT. REMAINS INTERESTED IN PURSUING FORCEFULLY CONCEPT OF EXPORTERS GROUP CONSULTATIONS ON MAJOR PRODUCTION, RESERVE AND INVESTMENT QUESTIONS FOR REASONS STATED IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH. IF REACTIONS FROM OTHER EXPORTERS CONTINUE TO BE NEGATIVE, WE WILL NEED TO KNOW THIS SO THAT WE CAN FOLLOW-
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UP IN CAPITALS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE250983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ORF:OPF:FPD:MPBOERNER:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740328-0093
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741143/aaaabkah.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: ROME 15589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE -- FOLLOW-UP ON FOOD RESERVES AND GRAIN EXPORTERS GROUPS
TAGS: OCON, ETRD
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005